

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

CLAIMS

1. (original) The use of ulvans, in particular extracted from green algae of the genus *Ulva* or *Enteromorpha*, or of ulvan-derived oligosaccharides, as activators of plant defense and resistance reactions against biotic or abiotic stresses.
2. (currently amended) The use as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the abovementioned ulvans are extracted from algae chosen from the group consisting of the following species: *Ulva armoricana*, *Ulva rigida*, *Ulva rotundata*, *Ulva lactuca*, *Enteromorpha intestinalis* and *Enteromorpha compressa*, preferably *Ulva armoricana*, *Enteromorpha intestinalis* and *Enteromorpha compressa*.
3. (currently amended) The use as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2, characterized in that~~ wherein the abovementioned extracts are obtained by means of a method generally comprising the following steps: washing, milling, extraction (solid-liquid separation) and, optionally fractionation and concentration.
4. (currently amended) The use as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the abovementioned ulvan-derived oligosaccharides are obtained by acid hydrolysis or enzymatic hydrolysis.
5. (currently amended) The use as claimed in ~~one of the claims 1 to 4, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the effective amount of ulvans or of ulvan-derived oligosaccharides given to the plants is from 0.1 to 100g per liter, and preferably of the order of 1g per liter, when applied in liquid form via the leaves, in nutritive solutions for the roots (hydroponics, dropwise, etc.) or in solutions for seed or post-harvest treatment, or else from 10 to 1000g per hectare, and preferably of the order of 200g per hectare, when applied in solid form, for example in pulverulent or granulated products.
6. (currently amended) A method for activating plant defense and resistance reactions against biotic or abiotic stresses, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein it

comprises the application, to said plants, of an effective amount of ulvans, in particular extracted from green algae of the genus *Ulva* or *Enteromorpha*, or of ulvan-derived oligosaccharides.

7. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 6, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the application to the plants is carried out via the leaves or via the roots.
8. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 6 ~~or 7, characterized in that~~ wherein the effective amount given to the plants is from 0.1g to 100g per liter, and preferably of the order of 1g per liter, when applied in liquid form via the leaves, in nutritive solutions for the roots (hydroponics, dropwise, etc.) or in solutions for seed or post-harvest treatment, or else from 10 to 1000 g per hectare, and preferably of the order of 200g per hectare, when applied in solid form in pulverulent or granulated products.
9. (currently amended) A plant-protection product, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein it comprises an effective amount of at least one ulvan, in particular extracted from green algae of the genus *Ulva* or *Enteromorpha*, or an ulvan-derived oligosaccharide, optionally in combination with one or more fertilizing substances.
10. (currently amended) The plant-protection product as claimed in claim 9, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein it is in the form of a liquid or in the form of a powder or of granules, and in that it contains an amount of ulvans or of ulvan-derived oligosaccharides which makes it possible to give the plants from 0.1g to 100g per liter, and preferably of the order of 1g per liter, when applied in liquid form, or else from 10 to 1000g per hectare, and preferably of the order of 200g per hectare, when applied in solid form in pulverulent or granulated products.